Outline for Name & Gender Marker Changes

1. NAME CHANGE: In Arkansas, you do not need any documents from a physician for a name change. There is an **ARKANSAS NAME CHANGE PETITION** & **NAME CHANGE ORDER** you can file with the county clerk in the county you reside. Both forms need to be filled out on the internet then printed. These forms can be found online. The form will include the instructions on how to fill it out. Visit this website for more information. <http://www.arlegalservices.org/namechange> The cost to file is approximately $160. There is a fee waiver form if you have low income. It is up to the county to decide if you will go before a judge. Often, the judge will just sign the Name Change Order. Once the form has been signed you file it with the County Clerk. This process can usually take 1 to 2 weeks.
2. DRIVER’S LICENSE: To change your name, you will need to have your NAME CHANGE ORDER. You do not need any physician documentation for gender change. Tell the DMV employee what gender you want listed on your Driver’s License.
3. GENDER MARKER CHANGE WITH SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION: You will need a Physician’s Affidavit with the original physician’s signature (not a copy). Take the affidavit and the Name Change Court Order to the Federal Social Security Office. The Physician Affidavit will allow you to change your gender marker with Social Security. It will take approximately 2 weeks to get your new Social Security Card, that will reflect your name and gender. Your Social Security Number will not change. You can take this and change all records associated with your Social Security Number. (Employment records, health records/insurance, bank accounts, school, taxes, ect.)
4. PASSPORT: You will need the Physician Affidavit (Original Signature), your Name Change Order & a copy of your Birth Certificate (to prove citizenship) to obtain a new passport. The Name Change Order & Physician Affidavit will over-ride the name/gender on your Birth Certificate for the Passport. This can be done at some post offices or libraries. Check online for the location near you. A Driver’s License & a Passport will give you 2 forms of Government issued phot ID.
5. BIRTH CERTIFICATE: To change your Birth Certificate you will need to look at the criteria for the state you were born in. Some states require a Physician’s Affidavit (No surgery). Some states require specific Gender Reassignment Surgery & some don’t allow changes at all. Arkansas states that you need to have surgery, but is not specific (We interpret it to mean ANY gender related surgery). You will need your Physician’s Affidavit that states you meet the states requirements.
6. We recommend you keep your ORIGINAL Physician Affidavit in your permanent records.

RESOURCES:

Go to the ARTEC (Arkansas Trans Equality Coalition) website <http://www.artranscoalition.org/> or the ARTEC facebook page & look under files for forms and instructions.

Mike Lauro is a Little Rock Attorney that will assist you with changing you name for a reasonable fee. Phone: 501-613-6529

RESOURCES cont.:

Park West Pharmacy in LR provides assistance with the name change process and when funds are available from outside foundations can help with the cost. Visit their website-parkwestlittlerock.com or Facebook page for additional information.